

The Ups and Downs

Alabama Department of Labor, Elevator Safety Division

Conveyances that are NOT inspected in Alabama

You hear us speak about inspection requirements for elevators and conveyances in Alabama. We rarely address the conveyances that are NOT inspected in Alabama that carry persons and materials daily.

Alabama's statute that regulates inspection of elevators and conveyances clearly define the conveyances that this department regulates and those that are exempt from inspection by law. I have copied the exemptions straight from the statute itself. It reads:

Section 25-13-3 Applicability.

(c) Equipment not covered by this chapter includes, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) Personnel hoists within the scope of ANSI A10.4.
- (2) Material hoists within the scope of ANSI A10.5.
- (3) Man lifts within the scope of ASME A90.1.
- (4) Mobile scaffolds, towers, and platforms within the scope of ANSI A92.
- (5) Powered platforms and equipment for exterior and interior maintenance within the scope of ANSI 120.1.
- (6) Conveyors and related equipment within the scope of ASME B20.1.

(7) Cranes, derricks, hoists, hooks, jacks, and slings within the scope of ASME B30.

(8) Industrial trucks within the scope of ASME B56.

(9) Portable equipment, except for portable escalators which are covered by ANSI A17.1.

(10) Tiering or piling machines used to move materials to and from storage located and operating entirely within one story.

(11) Equipment for feeding or positioning materials at machine tools, printing presses, etc.

(12) Skip or furnace hoists.

13) Wharf ramps.

(14) Railroad car lifts or dumpers.

(15) Line jacks, false cars, shafters, moving platforms, and similar equipment used for installing an elevator by a contractor licensed in this state.

(16) Equipment otherwise covered under this chapter which is located at an industrial facility that is not accessible by the general public and which is used in the construction, operation, or maintenance of the facility.

(d) This chapter shall not apply to any entity engaged in the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy or any employee, agent, or contractor

thereof when performing work for the utility or other entity described herein.

These exemptions provided for by law are expected to be maintained in safe operating condition by the courts of popular opinion and in some cases federal law such as OSHA.

When I receive a call from a mechanic or concerned person about what appears to be an unsafe conveyance in one of these exempt locations, I waste no time in calling and writing the owner of the conveyance.

After contact with a responsible person, we often find the problems are corrected within a timely manner.

I can not levy any fines or penalties against the owner of exempt equipment for non compliance. However, with participation from the county and city governments, often a company may find their business license up for review for not following sound and safe engineering practices.

It is that spirit of cooperation that better facilitates safer conveyances both covered and exempt by state law.

Volume 1, Issue 5
September 1, 2008

Special points of interest:

Conveyances that are NOT inspected in Alabama page 1

Elevator Safety Review Board Audited by State's Examiners Office of Public Accounts page 3

Elevator Board to meet September 25th, 2008 page 2



Elevator Safety Review Board to meet in Birmingham

The Elevator Safety Review Board will meet in Birmingham at the Inverness Center on September 25th, 2008. You can visit our website for exact location and time at www.alalabor.state.al.us.

This will be the board's first meeting away from the Labor Department since its first meeting in January of 2004.

Although the agenda is still in development, some items include:

1. Voting on requests for variances
2. Adding the requirements for sump pumps

and pit ladders to the board's rules and regulations for existing locations. A17.3 does not reference these items.

3. By writing them in the board's rules and regulations they will become mandatory at the same time other requirements set forth in A17.3 become mandatory by July 1st, 2009.

All rule changes will be done in compliance with the State's Administrative Procedures Act.



Inspectors Meeting Held August 12th, 2008

The first Annual Elevator Inspector's Meeting was held at The RSA Union Building conference room, 3rd floor here in Montgomery on August 12th, 2008.

The meeting, called by Chief Pate, lasted the better part of the day.

Items covered included inspection techniques, inspection reports, and inspection requirements unique to Alabama as compared to other states.

The meeting afforded an opportunity for the different private companies who do the bulk of

the annual inspections throughout the state to sit down together and discuss issues unique to their situations as well.

No date or location has been determined for the next inspectors meeting, but we will inform everyone by this quarterly and other means when it is determined.



"A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned" or "One Phone Call Saves \$200,000"

I have found this job to be satisfying in many ways.

One way in which it is most gratifying is by saving an owner several thousand dollars simply because they invested a few minutes in a phone call to me.

I often get calls about the fire service upgrade required by A17.3 elevator code to be completed by July 1st, 2009. In this particular case, I wastold by the owner that the elevator

company has given them a quote of \$200,000 to perform the upgrades.

Several circumstances lead the owner to ask if there is any way to postpone or eliminate the financial hardship of this expense.

Occasionally, there is a valid reason the owner does not need to have this upgrade performed.

A17.3 requires fire service only if the elevator travels 25 feet or more above or below the designated landing. Often the sales person

does not know this. It can be found in the Appendix C of A17.3 code.



Elevator Safety Review Board Audited by State's Examiners Office of Public Accounts

The Safety Division's Elevator Bureau has undergone another Legislative Sunset Committee Audit last July, as mandated by its enabling statute.

Labor Commissioner, Jim Bennett, Board Members, and Chief Pate answered questions presented by the Legislative Sunset Committee. This Committee is comprised of six members of the House and six members of the Senate.

A clean bill of health was given by the Committee, who will sponsor a bill during the next Legislative session to continue to boards operation.

Preparation for the Sunset Committee meeting starts long before the actual meeting.

The States Department of Examiners of Public Accounts, located at 50 North Ripley Street, Montgomery, reviews and evaluates the operations of the Elevator Safety Review Board by obtaining information from management, staff and records, in addition to other sources. I have included some of the information we provide be-

low.

Elevator Mechanics Examination Pass/Fail Statistics:

Taken	Pass	Fail	Pass%
31	8	23	26%

Licensees as of March 2008:

Elevator Contractors	34
Elevator Inspectors	29
Elevator Mechanics	345
Limited Elevator Contractors	6
Limited Elevator Mechanics 11	
Temporary Mechanics	54
Total Licensees	479

Active Certificates of Operation as of 7-7-2008:

10,593

"A clean bill of health was given by the Committee, who will sponsor a bill during the next Legislative session to continue to boards operation."

Elevator Licensing and Permit Information to be Posted on the Web

For some time now our programmers have been hard at work developing reports to help elevator contractors and mechanics review their license information and permits on-line.

We will be phasing in some reports right away.

One first such report that should help is the expired mechanics license list.

We will provide a link that will open a PDF document you can read alphabetically to see if

your license have expired.

In the future we intend to provide a link that will list all current licenses along with expiration dates as well.

We will also provide a link that will allow companies to review all open permits by location, county and by company.

We will add more of these reports as requested when possible.





Alabama Department of Labor, Elevator Safety Division

RSA Union Bldg
100 North Union Street, Ste 620
P.O. Box 303500
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3500

Phone: 334 242.3460
Fax: 334 240-3417
E-mail: ralph.pate@alalabor.alabama.gov

Safety is no Accident!

Established in 1935, the Department of Labor promotes peaceful settlement of labor disputes and enforces state labor laws.

The Department provides mediation services, conducts union representation elections and files annual reports on unions with more than 25 members. Additionally, this office publishes job related illness, injury and fatality reports through its federal surveys.

Other major programs include enforcement of child labor statutes and safety inspections for boilers, pressure vessels, elevators and escalators. Further, the Labor Department actively promotes labor/management cooperation between companies and their unions through the Governor's Annual Labor/Management Conference.

The Department works closely with federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Labor.

We're on the web
www.alalabor.state.al.us

Other Duties as Assigned

Some or most of you are aware that the Labor Department's Safety Division is responsible for overseeing the Boiler and Pressure Vessel safety program as well. We have inspected over 13,000 boilers and pressure vessels to date. We license

The same staff members that many of you speak with so often concerning elevators, also handle the boiler programs daily functions as well. That includes permitting, data entry, invoicing, customer service issues, etc.

These four people handle a huge amount of paperwork. Considering their workload, it always pleases me when a customer sends me a letter or email of appreciation after working with one of my staff members in obtaining a lost certificate or any of the other myriad of customer service issues, and I am proud to say I do receive a good number of these accolades.

We do make mistakes as does everyone. If anyone has experienced any delays in getting their license in a timely manner, or any other obstacle encountered, please don't hesitate to contact me. I promise that even with "other duties as assigned" we will take every opportunity to listen and help in any way.

Ralph P. Pate

